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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application for:

Thomas A. Silvestrini

Serial No.: *08/* 09/993,946

Filing Date: December 18, 1997

For: CORNEAL IMPLANT METHOD AND  
PLIABLE IMPLANT THEREFOR

Examiner: D. Willse

Group Art Unit: 3738

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION FILED IN  
CONNECTION WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUING EXAMINATION**

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2001, issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action originally was due March 18, 2002. On June 18, 2002, a Notice of Appeal and Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time was filed, thereby extending the deadline to file a Brief on Appeal or take other action to August 18, 2002. This deadline is extendible up to January 18, 2003, upon petition and payment of a five month extension fee. Enclosed herewith is the Petition for a Five